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BOROUGH of CHARD



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health:

D. V. HAGUE,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

P. H. WEBB,
M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Chard.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1944.

Five years of War have resulted in a considerable accumulation of public works. By far the most important is the shortage of houses which becomes an increasingly urgent problem. Many houses at present occupied are, or should be condemned as unfit for human habitation, but it is impossible to proceed unless alternative accommodation is available.

The supply of water has been of good quality, but somewhat inadequate at times in quantity. An increased supply or considerable increase in storage facilities will be required in the future in view of the steady increase in demand per head of the population.

In the circumstances the health of the town has been good. No serious epidemics have occurred.

A teacher in Yeovil Girls' Secondary School was notified as suffering from Small Pox at Easter. In view of the considerable number of people travelling daily from Yeovil to Chard and the comparatively small number of people recently vaccinated in the district there was risk of a serious epidemic if further cases occurred. It was thought wise to inform the public and arrange for early vaccination of all who wished this done. Some 2,000 persons were vaccinated in the town, some of whom came from surrounding districts. This should be a considerable insurance against a serious epidemic in the district for some years to come, years when the return of troops from abroad may increase the risk of importing the disease. Fortunately, measures taken limited the outbreak to one case. The whole work was carried through with a speed and efficiency that reflects great credit on the local Medical men and Red Cross and St. John personnel.

Sporadic cases of Scabies were dealt with by Health Visitors and Sick Bays. There has been a considerable decline in the numbers of cases seen and treated.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.			
Area	...	...	1,030 Acres
Registrar-General's estimate of			
(a) Resident Population mid-1944,	} 3,835		
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculations of death rates.			

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Book	...	1,430
Rateable Value	...	£27,638
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£108

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	74	36	38
Live Births—Illegitimate	6	4	2
Still Births—Legitimate	4	2	2
Still Births—Illegitimate	2	2	—
Deaths	72	33	39
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	16
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	...	...	69
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	15

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	50
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	166
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)	...	1

Causes of Death.

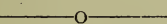
Tuberculosis of Res. System	...	—	3
Influenza	...	1	—
Cancer	...	6	6
Intra-Cranial Vasc.: Lesions	...	4	2
Heart Disease	...	7	4
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	1	2
Pneumonia	...	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	1	2
Birth Injuries and malformations, etc.	...	—	3
Suicide	...	1	2
Other Violent Causes	...	1	4
All other Causes	...	6	7
Total	...	33	39

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for Area.

1. Mr. Webb continues the whole work of the Sanitary Department, a heavy burden which should be relieved as soon as circumstances permit.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities—No Change.
(b) Ambulance Facilities—No Change.
(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres—No new Centres have been opened.
(d) Nursing in the Home—Nurse Tonge and Nurse Roylance continue their good work as District Nurses.
(e) Hospitals—No Change.
(f) War Nursery—General arrangements remain unchanged. Average daily number of children during the year 20.

Staff. Warden, Assistant Warden, Two Nursery Attendants, One Trainee, Two part-time workers, One Cleaner (part-time).



SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water Supply**—No Change.
2. **Drainage and Sewerage**—Repairs only.
3. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**
Drainage Tests and Inspections—
Tests 13
Inspections 19
Houses Disinfected 23
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections ... 18
Water Samples Taken 6
4. **Schools**—No Change.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections.

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 14
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 31
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932 ... 0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 0
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ... 0
3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 0

Housing Action.

- (a) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 0
- (b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action 0

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 8
- (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:—
(a) By Owners 8
(b) By Local Authority 0

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 0

Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding).

- 14 Condemned Houses are at present occupied. 18 Houses in Old Town made fit. Now occupied by Ministry of Aircraft Production workers.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register 8

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(1) Distributors only ... 6

(2) Distributors who are also Producers ... 2

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed 1

Government Slaughter House

527 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

Regular visits have been made to shops. Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

Adulteration.

Local Action taken ... 0

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

At the end of 1944 the following number of children were immunised:—

		Number Immunised	
School Children ...	663	540	81%
Children under School Age and over 1 year	334	206	60%

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified, 12 being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, South Petherton:—

	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	1	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	22	7	
Whooping Cough ...	37	—	
Measles ...	71	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	—	
Pneumonia ...	6	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	1	

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified.

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65
Diphtheria											
Scarlet Fever	3	2	2		12	3					
Whooping Cough	3	4	7		19	1	1	2			
Measles		15	22		26	6	2				
Cerebro Spinal Fever					1						
Pneumonia	1				2			1	1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia							2	2			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2											

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality

		New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15 ...	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15-25 ...	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35 ...	...	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
35-45 ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55 ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65 ...	...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards ...	...	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total ...	...	2	4	1	0	0	3	0	0

Total New Cases 7.

Deaths 3.